

CARES ACT ND Bioscience Grant Program

The agriculture commissioner shall administer the program with advice from the Bioscience committee. The committee consists of three statutory members consisting of the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, one representative of the North Dakota Department of Commerce, and one representative of the Bioscience Association of North Dakota.

Scope of program:

The purpose of the grant funds is to foster growth of bioscience industry in North Dakota. Eligible applicants applying should focus on the following areas:

- Supporting biotechnology innovation and commercialization in areas including:
 - Companies expressing ability to partner, assist, and develop technologies to benefit coronavirus research; virus screening technologies, antibody therapies, immunotherapies, and sanitation technologies.
- Promoting the creation of bioscience jobs in the state to be filled by graduates from institutions under control of the state board of higher education.
- Encouraging the development of new bioscience technologies and bioscience startup companies in the state.
- Leveraging the agriculture industry in the state to support the development of bioscience technologies impacting livestock operations and crop production.
- Promoting bioscience research and development at institutions under control of the state board of higher education.
- Encouraging coordination and collaboration among other entities and programs in the state to promote bioscience innovation goals.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has a total of \$5,000,000 grant funding to be awarded to projects to develop the bioscience industry in North Dakota. A maximum of \$1,500,000 will be allowed per company applying for funding. Applicants must have a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) match of the grant funds received.

Who is eligible?

All applicants must meet the following requirements to be considered eligible to apply:

- Employ at least two employees.
- Have documented sales of less than \$2,500,000
- Be a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, or limited liability partnership registered in North Dakota.

Ineligible use of funds:

Funding cannot be used for capital improvements, academic programming or curriculum, or workforce training.

How to apply?

All applicants must adhere to the following instructions, in addition to other requirements listed above. Applications missing any of the subsequent information may be deemed ineligible. The program opens for application on Friday, June 26th, 2020 with an application deadline of 5:00 PM Friday, July 6th, 2020.

Each proposal must list the name of the company or individual submitting the proposal, street address, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and the person(s) who will be responsible for the project.

- Proposals must describe in detail which of the previously described services (purpose) the grantee wishes to complete.
- Applicants may include any additional information that they consider pertinent and that will enhance the quality of their proposal.
- Applications are not limited to a specific minimum or maximum project amount. NDD reserved the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.
- Documentation verifying annual sales.

Applications will be evaluated on the merits of the proposals based on the scoring criteria listed below. Applicants will be notified following a review process if monetary adjustments to grant requests, project proposal scope of work and/or project budgets are necessary.

A. POTENTIAL IMPACT (30 points MAX)
Does the project have a positive impact on expanding the bioscience industry in North Dakota? How effective will the project be at enhancing the mission of the program?
B. EXPECTED MEASURABLE OUTCOMES: (25 points Max)
Does the project include one or two measurable outcomes that directly support the project's purpose? Are they of direct importance to beneficiaries? Does each measurable outcome include a specific goal, benchmarks, and performance measure? How clear, appropriate and realistic are the goals and objectives?
C. WORK PLAN (20 points Max)
Is the work plan feasible? Is the timeline reasonable? Do the tasks relate to the project objectives and expected measurable outcomes?
D. MATCHING FUNDS & PROJECT COMMITMENT: (10 points Max)
Is industry support for the project demonstrated? Do stakeholders have an active role in any activities outlined in the project work plan? Are industry stakeholders providing matching or in-kind contributions? Is the project matched at a higher than fifty percent rate?
E. PROJECT OVERSIGHT: (10 points Max)
Is the scope of the project meeting the goals for broad geographic consideration and multiple product application? Does the project impact multiple sectors within the value chain?
F. MERIT: (5 points Max)
Each committee member may award a proposal up to five (5) additional points.

Upon Approval of Application:

Requests for reimbursement will be accepted on an as needed basis no later than December 15, 2020. Each reimbursement request must include an itemized invoice and documentation for the work or expense for which the payment was requested. Itemization must include the purpose, amount, and date incurred. Grantees must provide assurance that the work has been completed (i.e. include receipts, invoices) and clearly outline expenditures. Ten percent of the total grant funds will be retained until receipt of the complete final report including receipts for all expenditures.

A final performance report will be required on December 15, 2020. The final report may be posted on the NDDA website and is important for sharing project findings with state agencies and the public. The final report will include:

- Project Summary
- Project Approach
- Goals and Outcomes Achieved
- Lessons Learned
- Beneficiaries
- Contact Person
- Addition Information

In addition to the final report, the NDDA reserves the right to conduct a follow-up survey of funded projects in over to determine long-term impacts of the project and the grant funds.

Applicants who do not submit a final report or who submit an incomplete report may be required to return previously distributed funds to the NDDA.

The timeframe for grant work completion deadline is December 15, 2020.